



A Facilitated Conversation on Housing and Neighborhoods
Thursday February 26, 2015 & Friday February 27, 2015 – 1 PM to 5PM

Housing Discussion Action Statements from Participants on
February 26, 2015
Coronado Rehearsal Room
314 North Main Street
Rockford, IL 61101

The statements transcribed are not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the Housing Discussion. This record is intended to capture the spirit of the discussion and to encourage participants to continue in the development of an engaged and thoughtful housing plan for the Rockford community.

- We must bring all the pieces together to rebuild the neighborhoods; infrastructure, transportation, jobs, and housing.
- It's bigger than low and moderate income. It's how we zone to encourage economic and cultural diversity in the neighborhoods.
- There must be incentives to build throughout all neighborhoods in the city.
- When we de-concentrate, without new in-fill and neighborhood development, we are just creating a new problem.
- De-concentrated areas should be areas of opportunity.
- I like that we are talking about revitalizing the areas we've deconstructed.
- We need better housing but we also need to make the area attractive to new residents.
- We got here because of people that were insensitive to the poor and minorities.
- There is a lack of African American leaders. We are a disconnected community. There is no way for the minority community to gain access.
- We have to be mindful that we need to reverse the situation but it is not just moving the poor out; it is also moving the higher income back in.
- We need a plan to transform; to attract new residents and to create the opportunities that will grow our current residents that struggle.
- Healthy families would impact success. If our families are struggling with their health, they cannot and will not succeed.
- The health of a family is a broad dynamic which includes many factors such as employment and education.
- Housing stock is only one piece of the puzzle. We must lay out strategies to achieve success.

- Children raised in high poverty neighborhoods are less likely to succeed.
- Hope VI shows that the big picture approach is effective.
- The quality of life impacts the ability to have a healthy neighborhood.
- Sustainability is the right mixture of housing, retail and families.
- Communities need to think holistically in their approach.
- Some of the biggest challenges we face today are the result of decisions made 40 years ago.
- HUD accepts that past practices have created today's problems.
- We need to see the picture of where we want to go and figure out how to get there.
- Purpose build neighborhoods are an example of how to impact change. Can we do that incrementally or does it need to be the removal of a neighborhood?
- Can we use our central city as a starting point for a purpose built neighborhood?
- Jobs must go hand-in-hand with rebuilding neighborhoods.
- As a community, we have to define what we want to see in deconstruction of our neighborhoods. Is it 30% or 50%? We have to identify the goals, set the criteria, develop an implementation process and then take the steps to transform our neighborhoods.
- Could HUD consider changing income housing qualifications for housing programs to encourage middle income families to buy back into a redeveloped (on HUD dollars) neighborhood?
- We need to give non-for-profits a better incentive to buy homes that have been decommissioned.
- The city and county need to develop a cooperative program that would encourage individual transformation. You can select families, create a bootstrap program to help the families move out of public housing and create a natural migration from public housing to self-sustaining.